

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, and Ranking Member Cole,

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you consider providing \$132,000 for information technology equipment and crisis center upgrades by Contact Community Services, located at 6311 Court Street Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057.

The Crisis Services Division of Contact Community Services provides 24/7 telephonic crisis support and information services to callers in twelve counties in Central and Northern New York. This division is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology and the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, and has been responding to local calls from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline since October of 2011. Unfortunately, a significant portion of their equipment is nearing the end of its warranty and older technology has slowed their workflow.

The requested amount of \$132,000 will be used by Contact Community Services for the purposes of upgrading their crisis call center and adding additional systems for an anticipated increase in staff. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it is essential to enabling Contact Community Services to meet the increased demand for services that will accompany the launch of the congressionally authorized 9-8-8 number as the new 3-digit code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline later this year. With demand for mental health services surging across the country, Congress must prioritize investments in organizations like Contact Community Services to ensure our constituents have access to crisis services when they need them.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Furthermore, I am not aware of any other Member of Congress submitting a request for this purpose. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Katko", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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John Katko  
Member of Congress